

William Ramsay to George Washington, September 3, 1758, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM WILLIAM RAMSAY, ESQ.

CAMP NEAR RAYS TOWN, Septr. 3d.¹ 1758

DEAR SIR

Yours of yesterday I have, you ought to have no uneasiness, you are not the cause of any delay, your friends, & even those of ev'ry Core,² who know you only by Character, wish for you. I presume you know Lt. Col. Stephens has been under an arrest for some time by Sr. John Wildair,³ Stephens says he is right & will not be releasd without a publick justification, even Lieut Colo. Loyd of the Pensylvanias has taken the Command from the B---ly,⁴ this has mortified him much, & probably may humble his pride. To morrow Colo. Dagworthy marches with his Tatterdemalions & by report is to advance towards Fort Du Quesne, & there to throw up a breast work, or make some place of defence. The Genl. not yet come. the 1st. inst. we had Sixty one Guns fir'd & three feu de joys for taking Louisburg. I wish Capt. Woodward ev'ry success, also Sergt. Scott. I shall make evry remark in my power, but I hope to see you soon —

I am Dr. Sir Yours Most Affectly WM RAMSAY

¹ This letter, dated the 3d, is indorsed by Washington "Sept. 13th," although as Ramsay's letter of the 12th appears to follow it, the indorsement is probably incorrect.

² Probably intended for "corps."

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3 Sir John St. Clair appears to have been so designated by Mr. Ramsay on account of his tempestuous disposition, which also showed itself in his attitude during the Braddock campaign. The Commissioners from Pennsylvania write of him to the Governor that he "stormed like a lion rampant," and that he in his accusation that Pennsylvania was retarding the expedition, declared "that he would kill all kinds of cattle, carry away horses, burn houses &c. and that if the French defeated them in consequence of the delays of this Province, he would, with his sword drawn, pass through it, and treat the inhabitants as traitors to his master." In regard to this later quarrel between Colonel Stephen and himself, however, General Forbes writes to Colonel Bouquet, September 23, 1758, "Sir John St. Clair says that if I say he was in the wrong to Colonel Stevens, he will readily acknowledge it. I do not choose meddling, but I think Colonel Stevens might act, and trust to Sir John's acknowledgement." Sir John St. Clair was appointed in October, 1654, Deputy Quarter-Master General of all the forces in America, with rank of Colonel, and arrived in this country on the 10th of January, 1755. Sargent, in his Braddock's Expedition, says, "St. Clair remained for a long time in service in America. On the 20th March, 1756, he was made a Lieut. Col. of the 60th; in Jan., 1758, the local rank of Colonel in America was bestowed on him; and on Feb. 19th, 1762, he was made a full Colonel. He is said to have dwelt near Tarbet in Argyleshire. At the defeat he was shot through the body, under the right pap, but soon recovered."

4 Bully?